

Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) Linear operating device having an assembly for converting a rotational motion to a translational motion, said assembly comprising a nut, a rotating drive unit and a spindle, acting in conjunction with the nut, and the nut being rotatably attached to the spindle, wherein the rotating drive unit is connected fixed to the nut and operatively supplies a torsional force to the nut to provide complete separation of the spindle from the nut and the rotation drive unit.

2. (Original) Linear operating device according to claim 1, wherein the rotating drive unit is a motor.

3. (Original) Linear operating device according to claim 1, wherein the rotating drive unit is a spring.

4-16 (Cancelled)

17. (Previously Presented) Linear operating device according to claim 1, wherein the nut is connected rotatably fixed to a first lock device which is connectable, detachably, to a complementary lock device to operatively prevent rotation of the first lock device.

18. (Previously Presented) Linear operating device according to claim 2, wherein the nut is connected rotatably fixed to a first lock device which is connectable, detachably, to a complementary lock device to operatively prevent rotation of the first lock device.

19-29 (Cancelled)

30. (Original) Linear operating device according to claim 1, wherein the spindle and the nut are arranged in respective mountings which are tiltable.

31. (Original) Linear operating device according to claim 2, wherein the spindle and the nut are arranged in respective mountings which are tiltable.

32.-36. (Cancelled)

37. (Currently Amended) A spacecraft comprising a linear operating device having an assembly for converting a rotational motion to a translational motion, said assembly comprising a nut, a rotating drive unit and a spindle, acting in conjunction with the nut, and the nut being rotatably attached to the spindle, wherein the rotating drive unit is connected fixed to the nut and operatively supplies a torsional force to the nut to provide complete separation of the spindle from the nut and the rotation drive unit.

38. (Original) A spacecraft comprising a linear operating device according to claim 37, wherein the rotating drive unit is a motor.

39.-42. (Cancelled)

43. (Original) A spacecraft comprising a linear operating device according to claim 37, wherein the nut has an operative connection with the spindle via rolling bodies.

44. (Original) A spacecraft comprising a linear operating device according to claim 37, wherein the nut is connected with torsional strength to a first lock device which can be connected, detachably and with torsional strength, to a complementary lock device.

45. (Original) A spacecraft comprising a linear operating device according to claim 44, wherein the first lock device has a projection or a recess on a surface, and wherein the complementary lock device has a form which is complementary to the projection or the recess .

46. (Original) A spacecraft according to claim 37, wherein the rotating drive unit is connected with the spacecraft, and wherein the spindle is attached rotatably fixed to detachable, extensible or unfoldable mechanisms of the spacecraft.

47. (Original) A spacecraft according to claim 46, wherein the spindle is connected to a solar generator unit or to an antenna device.

48. (Currently Amended) A solar generator unfolding system comprising a linear operating device having an assembly for converting a rotational motion to a translational motion, said assembly comprising a nut, a rotating drive unit and a spindle, acting in conjunction with the nut, and the nut being rotatably attached to the spindle, wherein the rotating drive unit is connected fixed to the nut and operatively supplies a torsional force to the nut to

provide complete separation of the spindle from the nut and the rotation drive unit.

49. (Original) A solar generator unfolding system comprising a linear operating device according to claim 48, wherein the rotating drive unit is a motor.

50.-53. (Cancelled)

54. (Original) A solar generator unfolding system according to claim 48, wherein the nut has an operative connection with the spindle via rolling bodies.

55. (Original) A solar generator unfolding system according to claim 48, wherein the nut is connected rotationally fixed to a first lock device which can be connected, detachably and rotatably fixedly, to a complementary lock device.

56. (Original) A solar generator unfolding system according to claim 55, wherein the first lock device has a projection or a recess on a surface, and wherein the complementary lock device has a form which is complementary to the projection or the recess.

57. (Original) A solar generator unfolding system according to claim 48, wherein the linear operating device is part of a hold-down and release system for unfolding a solar generator unit.

58. (Original) A solar generator unfolding system according to claim 57, wherein the nut is connected to a support structure of the solar generator

unit, and wherein the spindle is connected with an outermost panel element of the solar generator unit.

59. (Original) A solar generator unfolding system according to claim 58, wherein the spindle is arranged inside a first mounting which is tiltable relative to the outermost panel element of the solar generator unit, and wherein the nut is arranged in a second mounting which is tiltable relative to the support structure.

60. (Currently Amended) Method of making a linear operating device comprising:

providing an assembly for converting a rotational motion to a translational motion,

providing a rotating drive, a nut and a spindle for the assembly,

rotatably attaching the nut to the spindle so that the spindle acts in conjunction with the nut, ~~and~~

rotatably fixing the rotating drive unit to the nut; and

providing by means of said rotating drive unit a torsional force to the nut in order to completely separate the spindle from the nut and the rotating drive unit.

61. (Cancelled)

62. (Original) A method according to claim 60, wherein the nut has an operative connection with the spindle via rolling bodies.

63-65 (Cancelled)

66. (Currently Amended) A linear drive having an assembly for converting a rotational motion to a translational motion, said assembly comprising:

a spindle,

a nut rotatably connected to the spindle, and

a rotating drive unit connected fixed to the nut and operatively supplying a torsional force to the nut,

wherein the drive unit rotates the nut, and the nut linearly moves the spindle, the spindle being ~~detachable~~ completely detached from the nut by said torsional force.

67. (Original) A linear operating device according to claim 66, wherein a second rotating drive unit is provided which exerts a force in an axial direction of the spindle on an area of the spindle that is operatively connected to the nut thereby rotating the nut.

68. (Cancelled)

69. (New) The device according to claim 1, wherein said spindle is connected to a mechanism to be separated from the linear operating device.

70. (New) The device according to claim 37, wherein said spindle is connected to a mechanism to be separated from the linear operating device.

71. (New) The device according to claim 48, wherein said spindle is connected to a mechanism to be separated from the linear operating device.

72. (New) The device according to claim 66, wherein said spindle is connected to a mechanism to be separated from the linear operating device.

72. (New) The method according to claim 60, wherein said spindle is connected to a mechanism to be separated from the linear operating device.